

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The Applicant respectfully presents herewith replacement Figs. 1-3, which include the desired changes, without markings, and which comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.84. The changes made to Figs. 1-3 are explained in the accompanying remarks section below.

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 1, 2006, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

By this Amendment, claim 14 has been canceled and claims 7, 8, 9, 15 and 16 have been amended. No new matter is presented. Claims 1-13, 15 and 16 are pending and respectfully submitted for consideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-7 and indicating allowable subject matter in claims 8-13, 15 and 16.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to because Figs. 1-3 were not designated by the "Prior Art" legend. Responsive to the objection, the Applicant has amended Figs. 1-3 to be designated as Prior Art. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

Claim Objections

Claims 7 and 9 were objected to for minor informalities. Responsive to the objections, the Applicant has amended claims 7 and 9. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 8-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 8 and 14 were noted in particular. Responsive to the rejection, the Applicant has amended claim 8. As claim 14 has been canceled, the rejection is now rendered moot. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aulet et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,644,417) in view of Coin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,590,644) and further in view of Chujo et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0081278). As claim 14 has been cancelled, the rejection is now rendered moot. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

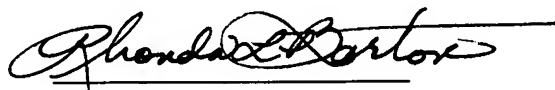
Conclusion

As noted above, claims 1-7 are allowed. Claims 9-13 depend from claim 8 and claims 15 and 16 have been rewritten in independent form. In view of the above amendments, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections and rejections, allowance of claims 8-13, 15 and 16 and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing Attorney Dkt. No. 025697-00024.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rhonda L. Barton", with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Rhonda L. Barton
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 47,271

Customer No. 004372

ARENT FOX LLP

1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 400

Washington, D.C. 20036-5339

Tel: (202) 857-6000

Fax: (202) 638-4810

RLB/jjw/wbp

Enclosures: Replacement Sheets of Drawing Figures 1-3
Extra Claims Fee Transmittal